

Lavender Library, Archives
and Cultural Exchange
Sacramento, CA

Lambda Letters Project

32564

Vol. 2, No. 11

November, 1994

6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, California 95608

Phone (916) 965-6851

Site and Date of Annual Meeting Announced

The second annual membership meeting of the Lambda Letters Project is scheduled to occur on Saturday, January 21, 1995 at the Lutheran Church of Our Redeemer, 4641 Marconi Ave. (at Mission) in Sacramento. The meeting will begin at 9:00 a.m. with coffee and donuts. The business meeting will begin at 9:30 a.m. The agenda includes a report on the accomplishments of the Project in 1994, approval of the 1995 budget, the election of new Board members, and other business that may properly come before the meeting. *Please plan to attend our annual meeting on January 21st. Help us make Lambda Letters a representative democracy!* If you are unable to attend, *please complete and return the proxy statement* at the front of this newsletter. This is very important, because unless we have a quorum of one-third the members present in person or by proxy, we cannot accomplish the important business of the meeting.

Who Qualifies to Vote at the Annual Meeting?

Anyone who is a member in good standing at the time of the annual meeting may vote at the meeting. According to guidelines adopted by the Board of Directors, a member in good standing is *anyone who has returned one or more signed letters to Lambda Letters during*

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Please Put Us on Your Holiday Gift List

Each year, from 1991 through 1993, the number of letters collected by Lambda Letters increased by almost 10,000 letters a year! In 1993 alone we collected over 29,000 letters. However, in 1994 we will probably collect 1,000 to 1,500 fewer letters than in the previous year.

Similarly, from 1991 through 1993, contributions received by the Project virtually *doubled* each year. In 1993 alone we received over \$7,700 in donations. However, we now expect to receive barely more than \$200 over that amount in 1994.

There is a clear connection between these two sets of facts. With no increase in income this year, we have had to curtail the growth of the Project—no growth in our mailing list, less aggressive publicity, and fewer people gathering signatures at meetings of community-based organizations or at community events.

Every day's newspapers cry out with evidence of the desperate need for increasing the influence of our community. The failure to enact state legislation on needle exchange, or domestic partners registration, and the refusal of Congress to allow federal funds to be used for abortions, along with the con-

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Lambda Letters Progress Report

Letters Collected

September	3,653 letters
This year	23,139 letters

Dollars Spent

September	\$3,555
This year	\$12,242

Can You Help?

Please support the very important work of the Lambda Letters Project with your contributions.

Lambda Letters Project

Statement of Purpose

To promote people of color, feminist, lesbian, gay, bisexual, and HIV/AIDS status advocacy and to bring people of color, women, lesbians, gays, bisexuals, and persons affected by or living with HIV/AIDS status into full participation in the mainstream of American society now, exercising all the privileges and responsibilities thereof.

Board of Directors

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Stefan Grünwedel, Sacramento, (916) 632-4457, Vice-Chair
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Denise Okamoto, Legislative Analyst: Women's Issues, (916) 441-6785
Jeff Tsang, Legislative Analyst, People of Color Issues, (916) 455-1616

Sponsors of Lambda Letters Project

Corporate Benefactors (\$250-350)

Faces of Sacramento

Change of Address Form

Please change my address to:

Name

Address

City, ZIP Code

Phone

Send changes of address (incl. name, new address, city, ZIP code, and phone number) to Lambda Letters Project, 6212 Silverton Way, Carmichael, CA 95608.

E-mail Correction

In our last newsletter we gave you an e-mail address for the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force (NGLTF). We have since learned that this e-mail address has been closed. However, you can still reach NGLTF at the address ngltf@aol.com. We would also like to know your e-mail address so that we can quickly notify you of legislative events that need your immediate response. Send your e-mail address to us at Boyceh1021@aol.com (we are on America Online).

Annual Meeting

Continued from page 1

October, November, or December, 1994, who provided a minimum of three hours of volunteer service to the Project during those same months, or who made financial contributions to the Project during 1994.

Under these rules, almost anyone receiving this newsletter qualifies to vote at our annual meeting. We hope you will attend and help make Lambda Letters a member-run organization. Please remember, we need attendance of one-third of our members present, in person or by proxy, to conduct business. *So please complete and return your proxy immediately!* (Please note: you will be able to vote at the meeting even if you send us your proxy but then decide to attend the meeting after all.)

Holiday Gift List

Continued from page 1

tinuing harassment of gays in the military, is clear evidence of that fact. Friendly legislators repeatedly tell us we need to flood Congress and the state legislature with letters on these issues. Many, many more letters than they now receive are needed.

Lambda Letters has a proven mechanism ready and waiting to do just that. However, our ability to increase the flow of mail to legislators, or to establish programs for rapid response to legislative events, has been severely hampered by the reduction in the growth of our income.

So we are asking you to remember us at the holiday season. Contributions of just \$5 from each of our members would quickly grow to \$3,500. That would do a lot to help us begin growing again in the new year. Please contribute what you can and have a wonderful holiday season!

1995 Budget to Be Voted On at January Membership Meeting

The 1995 budget will be voted on at the January 1995 annual membership meeting. We hope you will be there to discuss it with us, but please sign and return the enclosed proxy in case you are unable to attend. We will be unable to approve a budget unless we have a quorum of one-third the members present in person or by proxy. The tentative budget for the new year appears in Table 1.

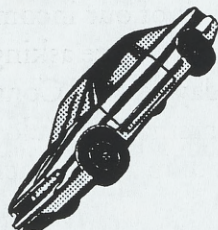
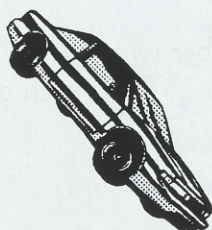
Table 1. Proposed Budget for 1995

Income		Expenses	
Ad space	\$1,310	Advertising	\$120
Auction	\$1,500	Bank charges	\$120
Calendars	\$264	Board meetings	\$80
Carry forward	\$1,200	Brochure printing	\$138
Contributions	\$8,170	Calendars	\$81
Entertainment books	\$10,495	Entertainment books	\$9,044
		E-mail	\$120
		Envelopes	\$402
		Fees	\$100
		Insurance	\$1,500
		Photocopies	\$1,628
		Postage	\$6,228
		Printing	\$748
		Space rental	\$203
		Supplies	\$169
		Telephone	\$369
		Travel	\$1,544
Total	\$22,939	Total	\$22,594

PINK TRIANGLE TRAFFIC SCHOOL

If you have to go to traffic school
it might as well be
gay/lesbian!

415-541-8599



Letter and Article Composers Needed

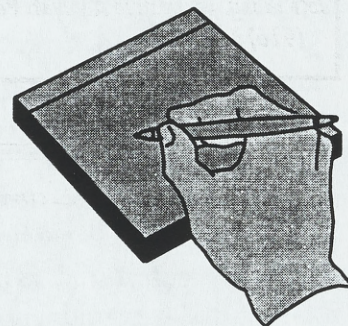
Your Chance to Make an Impact!

Sharlene Gilman has done an excellent job over the past year researching our gay/lesbian/bisexual subject each month and composing the monthly sample letters and articles on that subject. However, she has had to withdraw because of outside responsibilities. We need to find a replacement for this important volunteer position.

Also, Jeff Tsang has done an excellent job as our people of color analyst. However, he has decided to go to law school and will no longer have the time to write the letters and articles on people of color issues.

We need two people in the vicinity of Sacramento with good writing skills who will spend about 10 hours a month researching possible subjects and composing sample letters and articles for our newsletter.

They will also need to attend a monthly, weekday evening, staff meeting in which each month's subjects are chosen. The Project can provide leads on how to find suitable subjects and advice on writing if needed. This is a great opportunity for you to influence the subjects we cover.



Advertising Rates

Business-card sized ads (3.5" x 2") \$10 per issue

Quarter-page ads \$20 per issue

Half-page ads \$30 per issue

Full-page ads \$50 per issue

*Send payment and your camera-ready copy,
along with your name and phone number, to:*

Lambda Letters Project

6212 Silverton Way

Carmichael, CA 95608

Deadline is the 25th of each month.

MTV's Noble But Failed Attempt at AIDS Education

Over the years the Music Television (MTV) Network has conducted a considerable amount of AIDS education programming. One of their most recent efforts was a one-hour program "Smart Sex," which they first aired in late September. This was presaged by much publicity, including mass mailings to AIDS educators across the country. Unfortunately, the reality of the program as aired did not live up to its promise. Specifically, except for one short sequence, the options presented for safe sexual behavior were limited to abstinence or penile-vaginal intercourse with a condom. It should be obvious to the great majority of us that Americans— young, old, gay, straight, and in between—do much more sexually than that! Furthermore, lots of what people do is not very safe.

In response to "Smart Sex," we are writing to Ms. Judith McGrath, MTV's president, and requesting that her network's programming "get real." For those of you who do not watch MTV, this term is a take-off on the title of one of their best programs, "The Real World," which recently finished its third season. This is the series that featured, as one of its six stars, Pedro Zamora, a 22-year-old Cuban-American AIDS activist who is now close to death from AIDS. The network did not pull any punches in covering Pedro's real life on the show, and they have been supportive of him both emotionally and financially in his last days. Like too many Americans, he is severely ill and has no health insurance. We are asking that they show the same commitment to real AIDS education messages that they show in "The Real World" and discuss fully the dangers of unprotected sex in its many guises. As our letter to Ms. McGrath says, we already know the message content which should be broadcast, but what we feel is lacking is a commitment to do so and to take the flack which certainly will come after that.

Note to Sacramento County Residents: This month you will not be getting the letter to MTV. Instead we are asking that you sign a letter to the County Board of Supervisors concerning the request from the County Director of Health and Human

Protecting Native American Burial Rites and Rights

In most cultures, including our own, burial of the dead is an important and sacred ritual. Through the proper disposal of the remains of the dead, we give them dignity. Native Americans are certainly no exception. That is why the federal government adopted the Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act (1990), which requires federally funded museums to return Native American remains and sacred and cultural objects to their appropriate tribes. A year later, California adopted A.B. 12 (sponsored by Richard Katz-D), which imposed similar requirements at the state level.

Unfortunately, these laws only address half the problem. Almost all Native American tribes in California have lost their tribal burial grounds to housing and commercial developments, farms, and other non-Native American encroachments. Existing laws do not provide a place for tribes to bury their dead or the repatriated remains of their ancestors. In response to this problem, the Legislature passed A.J.R. 41 (sponsored by Dan Hauser-D) last year to ask the federal government to set aside at least two plots of federal land in California for tribal burial grounds. More than a year later, there has been no action.

This month's letter is addressed to George Miller (D), who has been identified as a potential sponsor of this effort in Congress, and to Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt. It simply asks the federal government to recognize the right of California Native Americans to give dignity to their deceased through a traditional and ceremonial burial in a tribal burial ground.

Services that a health state of emergency be declared. This state, which must be renewed every two weeks, would allow the county to begin a pilot needle exchange program. Given the Governor's three-time veto of a bill which would have allowed the establishment of such programs, this is the best we can do for now to fight the spread of HIV via injection drug users.

Stopping Exploitation of Asian Women

Mail order bride services have been around since the turn of the century. It was very common for Japanese men living in America to find a Japanese wife by picking her out of a photo album, purchase her, and then have her brought to America. These Japanese women were referred to as "picture brides." Women who were impoverished used these services in hopes of finding a way out of their class, country, and/or economic oppression. These services continue still today—and, moreover, are conducted along very shaky legal lines. They are usually patronized by white American men seeking a subservient and obedient wife.

A company in Davis, called Asian Romance, owned by Michael Donahue, solicits American men to be pen pals to Filipina women. His organization helps men find a suitable wife by setting up correspondences between the two. Through pictures and a brief biography of the women featured, the American men can pick and choose which women they wish to correspond with, in hopes of finding a bride. The ages of the women run from 15–50 years old. Since women cannot be legally purchased as before, what men actually purchase from Mr. Donahue's company are photographs of available women, their addresses, phone numbers, and guidance to assist the men through the immigration process once they've selected a bride.

He began this company after he found his "perfect" bride in the Philippines. She was 19, he was 29. His brochure states that any man can find an "attractive, unspoiled Asian lady who is enthusiastically devoted to pleasing you . . ."

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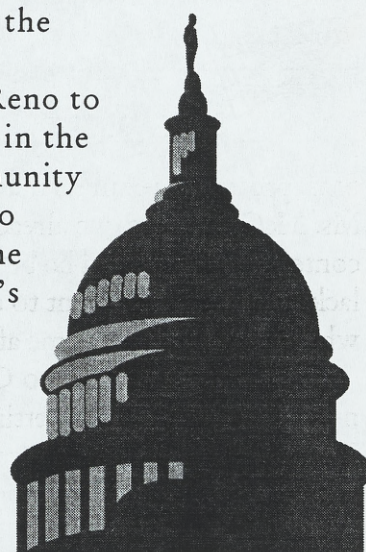


Urge the Department of Justice to Intervene in Mississippi

Please write to Attorney General Janet Reno and urge her to intervene in the Camp Sister Spirit situation in Ovett, Mississippi. It is important that the FBI oversee the investigation of anti-gay violence and even murder that has occurred there and that the Community Relations Service of the Department of Justice mediate the conflict between the lesbian, gay, and bisexual community and local law enforcement officials.

In 1993 Brenda and Wanda Henson established Camp Sister Spirit, a feminist-lesbian retreat in Ovett, Mississippi. Ever since then they have been subjected to an unending stream of harassment; including death threats, bomb explosions, and gunfire. The Hensons have reported over 64 acts of violence and intimidation against themselves. Recently two men were killed near Ovett in what appears to have been an anti-gay shooting. The Jones County Sheriff's Department has been uncooperative in dealing with the violence against the Hensons. Although they have arrested a man in connection with the murder, the National Gay and Lesbian Task Force sent observers to the scene who expressed a vote of "no confidence" in the Sheriff's investigation of both the violence at Camp Sister Spirit and the recent murders.

Please urge Janet Reno to authorize intervention in the situation by the Community Relations Service and to have the FBI oversee the activities of the Sheriff's Department. The FBI should also investigate the murders as a violation of the civil rights of the victims.



No Letters in December

Smith-Helms Amendment Defeated!

In order to give our staff and volunteers a well-earned rest, there will be no mailing from Lambda Letters in the month of December. We wish you all the happiest of holidays and look forward to serving you again in the new year.

Exploiting Women

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The Philippines are a third-world nation; they are economically depressed and lack the industrial, political, and social advantages available here. Services such as this take advantage of these depressed conditions, assisting privileged American men in exploiting women from these countries.

Women are not slaves, dolls, or objects to be selected from a photographic menu. We should stop the exploitation of women for the profiting of privileged men. Please write to members of Congress and the Senate to protest this grotesque treatment of women in the Philippines. Urge them to begin authoring bills that would make mail order bride services illegal.

Adults * Adolescents * Children

BEA BETZNER, M.F.C.C.

License No. MFC 30303

Counseling for the Rainbow Community

5120 Manzanita, Suite 100, Carmichael, CA 95608
Evening Hours Sliding Fee **(916) 564 - 8701**



Couples, Families, Individuals

Ellie Zacks, Ph.D.

*Clinical Psychologist
PSY10426*

(916) 334-0667
By Appointment

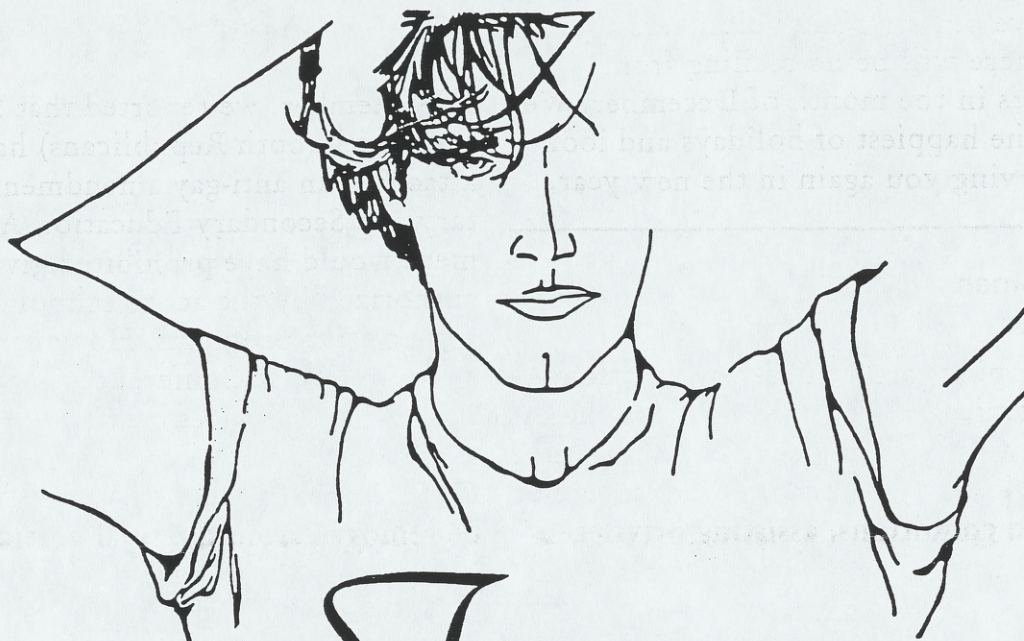
4811 Chippendale Dr., Suite 901, Sacramento, CA 95841

In September, we reported that Senators Helms and Smith (both Republicans) had succeeded in attaching an anti-gay amendment to the Elementary and Secondary Education Act. The amendment would have prohibited giving any funds authorized by the act to school districts with gay-positive programs. However, it had to go to a House Senate Conference Committee to reconcile differences between the House and Senate versions. We urged you to write to Congress asking that the offensive amendment be removed from the final version of the bill. You sent 1,000 letters and the language was removed. You should feel proud of the part that you played in persuading Congress to do the right thing!

Research Group Seeks Volunteers

The Northern California Research Group at U.C. Davis is seeking lesbians, gays, and bisexuals from the greater Sacramento area to participate in a study of issues of importance to their community and to see how they cope with the problems they face in the 1990s. The study is funded by a grant from the National Institute of Mental Health. Volunteers will be asked to devote about 20 minutes to answer questions in a written survey. This can be done at home. The research group promises to protect the privacy of participants (moreover, participants will not be asked to put their names on the survey questionnaires). If you are interested in volunteering, please call the Research Group at (800) 823-7883.





Faces

2000 K Street
Sacramento, CA 95816
(916) 448-7798

*Monday - \$100 Cash drawing every Monday night.
Starts 10:00 P.M.*

*Tuesday - Karaoke - Video Bar, \$5000 cash
National Contest. Ask for details.*

*Wednesday - Ladies Night
Country 7:00-10:00 P.M.
Disco 10:00-2:00 A.M.*

*Thursday - Blue Hankie Party - Patio Bar
Drink Specials*

*Friday - Saturday
Disco - 10:00-2:00 A.M.*

Sunday - Barbecue - Open 3:00 P.M.

*In November
Complimentary Thanksgiving Dinner
Sunday November 20th at 3:00 P.M.*

Would you buy an Entertainment Book if it was absolutely free?

If you and a friend visited just four of the following restaurants and used your Entertainment Book, you would probably regain the entire cost of the book. From then on all the savings would be yours to keep. For example you might patronize:

In Fresno

Applebee's
Sal's
Irene's Cafe
Vintage Press

In Los Angeles

The Bob Burns Restaurant
Cava of Hollywood
Charlie Brown's
Ruben's

In Sacramento

Ernesto's
Marie Callender's
Slocum House
Virga's

In San Diego

Cane's
California Bistro
Montana's American Grill
Sanfilippo's

In San Francisco

Silk's
The Carnelian Room
Charlie Brown's
The Cadillac Bar

In Sonoma

Graziano's
Russian River Vineyards
Mark West Lodge
Harvest Grill

***** TO ORDER YOUR BOOK *****

Please complete the order form on the back of the proxy statement enclosed with this news letter.